

THE
Youth's Reflections

ON THE
Much lamented DEATH
OF

The Reverend Mr. JONES.

Isa. lvii. 1, 2.

*The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart,
he shall enter into peace.* ∴

Psa. xii. 1.

*Help Lord, for the godly man ceaseth, for the faithful
fail among the children of men.* ∴

L O N D O N

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Christian Reader.

WHEN I first began to write my thoughts on the much lamented death of the Southwark apostle (so-called) I had no design of running to this length, much less to publish them ; but reading them to some friends, like-minded with myself, condoling the churches loss, weeping with them that weep, they desired that they might be made public, to which, tho' with reluctance, at last I consented.

May the blessed Redeemer, who breaks not the bruised reed, nor despiseth the day of small things, vouchsafe to accept this poor mite cast into the sacred treasury ; and if it is made a blessing to any, may the glory redound to Him to whom only it is due. Amen.

Thoughts which occurred on the Lord's Day evening, June, 6. 1762.

AT hearing of the death of your choice servant, and dear minister of Christ, and steward of the mysteries of God, the reverend Mr. J O N E S, who finished his course with joy the morning of this Sabbath, which indeed is an awful stroke to the church of God ! who can but lament Zion's loss ! truly a great, good man is fallen in our Israel ! one of Zion's sons, comparable to fine gold, is no more ! he that stood in the gap, with the rest of God's chosen, between Him and a sinful nation, is fallen asleep in Jesus ! he that was God's mouth to his people, an ambassador for Christ, an interpreter, one among a thousand, is advanced to an high office ! he that fed the lambs

*Dear Mr G. Whitefield Died on
a Lord's Day. I kept that
Sabbath in Glory.*

and tender ones of the flock of the chief Shepherd, with the sincere milk of the word, and relieved by a comfortable message those that were faint ; strengthening and comforting the children of God, is no more heard ! his place is empty ! That admired body, so beautiful, thro' the meek, lowly and heavenly image of Christ ; that so transcendantly shone in it, is now inactive, a breathless corpse, fit for the repositing in the tomb, and food for worms ! the high-born soul is fled to distant worlds ! conveyed by ministering spirits to him that gave its being and nobler birth ! joining now the triumphal church of the first-born, the spirits of the just made perfect ! preferred from cross to crown ; from warfare to rest ; from thrawl to throne !

When we reflect on the churches loss of so valuable a son, who so inviolably adhere too, so exemplarily and unblamably lived, faithfully preached, zealously maintained, and earnestly contended for the precious truths of an everlasting gospel ; in opposition to the infernal power and prince of darkness, his captivated vassals, and emissaries ! how can any one that loves the cause of God and truth, but be suitably affected ! and what will yet more contribute to augment our concern is, the few he hath left, that are like-minded, who love the work and labour of God's harvest, building and husbandry, as workers together with God herein ; who act from no inferior motive than the glory of the redeeming God, and salvation of sinners ! Here is cause for great weeping and wailing ! alas, alas ! for the idle shepherds, the faithless watchmen, those self seekers, men-pleasers (I had almost said soul-destroyers) who have entered on that work insensible of its nature, and strangers to its utmost moment and importance, as well as to

those gifts and graces, which are essential qualifications for the ministerial office ! who contrary-minded to the deceased minister of Christ, all, except a few (like the grape gleanings of the vintage) seek their own, not the things that are
 ∴ their professed masters, Jesus Christ.

God awaken them, call them by his grace, and reveal his Son in them, that they may be determined with the wise master-builder, and great apostle of the Gentiles, to lay no other foundation, and know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified ; salvation is to be found in that rejected, disallowed stone, and precious name of Jesus and in none other ! Doubtless those who are at ease in Zion, who are not afflicted for the troubles of Joseph, will be little affected ! while the ungodly (who hate those that reprove in the gate) triumph,
 ∴ saying, There, there ; so would we have it !

Truly this awful stroke, which I am commemorating, is just and righteous, considering the poor improvements which is generally made under such laborious servants of Christ ! Oh, how foolish are the children of light ! how justly is the candlestick removed ! and that bright star in the Redeemer's right-hand withheld from shining ! — May they be excited to more diligence and fruitfulness for the future !
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But on the other hand, when we reflect on his infinite gain, in this our loss, we cannot but rejoice, and give thanks ; especially so, if we are acquainted with the conflicts and warfare of the christian life ; blessed are the dead, that die in the Lord, from henceforth, yea, saith the spirit, for they rest from their labours : verily there is a Reward for the righteous : mark the perfect
 ∴ man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace. We will then say, Hail, happy

soul, thou blessed of the Lord ! safe passed thro' the stormy ocean, and landed on that happy shore, where temptations, and the wicked, cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest ! who having sought, and found redemption in the blood of Jesus, was intitled to, and is now made a partaker of, the inheritance of the saints in light ; being made a child of God by the blessed spirit of adoption, and received into his militant family or church below, is now made an heir of God, and joint-heir with Christ, and received into the triumphant family or church above ; made a living pillar in the upper temple of his God to go no more out, celebrating an endless sabbath ! triumphing and basking with the glorified throng in the fields of everlasting love, drinking in those uncloying pleasures, which flow from the throne of God and the Lamb ; refreshed no more thro' a channel or golden pipe of ordinances, but at the inexhaustible ocean and fountain head of immortal bliss ! singing (hark !) with the heavenly choir, the never ceasing song of free grace and redeeming love..

But alas ! here language fails, we can speak of glory but in negatives ! sometimes with Moses in a similar case, the saints are permitted to get up to the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, and have a ravishing view by faith of unseen things, but cannot declare the glory of the land afar off, only admire and adore ! 'tis not for the tongue or pen of any bodied saint on earth, who have received the weightiest joys, most ravishing consolations in Christ, and been made to drink deepest into the spirit, to describe or set forth that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, prepared for the blessed above ! yea, the scripture saith, It hath not entered into the heart of

man so much as to conceive those things in glory, which God hath laid up and prepared for those that love him, whose heart would not burn at such thoughts as these? ready to say with Moses, I beseech thee shew me thy glory! Who that hath tasted a little of heaven as a drop of a bucket, would not gladly die to prove that unutterable bliss in God's presence, where there is fulness of joy, and pleasures for evermore! who even among those unhappy souls, who chose not the way and work of the saints of God, doth not love and desire their end and reward; saying, let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his. But poor souls! like the slothful they desire and have not: their hopes, like the hypocrites perish, "because like Solomon's idiot, though there is a price put into their hands to get wisdom, they have no heart to it: and the scripture assure us, when speaking of the blessedness of the godly; As for the ungodly, not so with them! Oh who would not flee from the wrath to come, by a compliance and concurrence with the word and Spirit of God, in repenting and believing the gospel, that the Redeemer of fallen sinners may be salvation unto their souls also, and give them a lot of inheritance among his chosen and sanctified ones.

Reader of these lines, doth not thy heart pant after those priviledges of the children of God? this happiness conferr'd only on those who commence righteous, by believing on Jesus, with that faith, deservedly stiled by way of super-eminent distinction (from the dead notional letter, faith of nominal professors) the faith which is of the operation of God, which is his gift, wrought in the soul by the almighty power of the Holy Ghost. Go then to Jesus, the author and finisher of that work of faith in his people; and

say, Jesus ! Jehovah ! give me that precious gift of saving faith, that my soul may be united unto thee, as a living fruitful branch to the true vine, that I may hence rejoice in that divine consciousness, that I am cloathed with the wedding garment, that best robe, and white linnen, which is the righteousness and purity of the saints; that for me henceforth to live may be Christ, (his interest and glory) and to die may be my gain : and what thou once gave, continue to bestow, and increase, till faith be lost in sight, hope in full supreme delight, and everlasting love.

Many inferences might be drawn from these free thoughts, but as paper is short, I will conclude with two.

Let not the sorrowing church pore too much on their loss, and be cast down above measure ! though when the light's of our Israel are quenching ; minister's called home ; good shepherds to go in and out before the flock, are no more ; and we may fear lest that threatened famine of the precious word of life may be fulfilled ; yet though ministers die, Jesus lives for evermore ! under shepherds in the mediatorial kingdom may be removed ; yet the chief Shepherd and bishop of souls continue, the same yesterday, to day, and for ever ; and will not forsake his people, nor cast off his inheritance : he is given to be the head over all things, to the church, which is his body : in him dwells all fulness, he hath the seven spirits of God ; yea, on him hang all the glory of his father's houses, the offspring and issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flaggons ; may the unchangable Jesus then, in compassion to his church, raise up a Joshua to succeed a Moses ; give back this our Elijah, by raising up, and

anointing an Elisha! send
of a Stephen fallen a sleep

∴ may prosper, and interest

What comfort and
be drawn hence to those
rich grace hath set in to
run the race set before to
from the death of depar-
on, persisting still to pro-
in all the plain, till the
prize! truly, heavenly
shall not be in vain in the
an end, and your expecta-
come, tho' we are per-
treated, as the filth of the
of all things, thro' our
people, and word of his
deceased) yet soon comes
be glad and rejoice that we
for Glory! Oh who would
bandon the fleeting blifs!
Christ, receive pardon, hea-
ven; following Jesus in
withstanding all the trials
present moment, which
compared with the glory
May faith and patience
every grace of the Spirit
ed and encreased, that our
our lamps trimmed and
our Lord saying to us
and give us that crown of
is not for me, saith Paul,
only, but for all them also
the Holy Ghost given to
ance of the Lord Jesus.

F I N

Elisha! send a blessed Paul instead
fallen a sleep! that his reviving cause
and interest prevail! Amen.

omfort and encouragement might
nce to those, whose straying feet,
ath set in the way, and given to
set before them; to take courage
th of departed saints, and to go
still to press forward, not resting
ain, till they grasp the immortal
heavenly travellers, your labour
n vain in the Lord, you shall have
our expectation shall not be cut off:
we are persecuted and vilely en-
e filth of the world and off-scouring
thro' our adherance to God, his
word of his grace; (as this minister
soon comes the time, we shall be
ejoyce that we were thus trained up
Oh who would not resist pleasure! a-
eeting blifs! and by laying hold on
e pardon, peace, holiness and hea-
ng Jesus in the narrow way, not-
all the trials and sufferings of this
ent, which is not worthy to be
h the glory that shall be revealed!
nd patience hold out, and with
of the Spirit, be strengthen-
sed, that our loins being girded,
rimed and burning, we may hear
ing to us also, Come up hither,
hat crown of righteousness, which
faith Paul, or ministers of Christ,
all them also, faith he, who thro'
ost given to them, love the appear-
ord Jesus. Amen.

F I N I S.